

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

HEFLEY, Joel (Republican)
Representative, 5th District, Colorado
Elected 1986 to 100th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Ardmore, Oklahoma - 18 April 1935

Home: Colorado Springs, Colorado

Marital status: Married (Lynn) - 3 children

Religion: Presbyterian

Education: Oklahoma Baptist Univ, BA, 1957; Okla St Univ, MS, 1962; Gates Fellow at Harvard

Military: None

Profession: Public official; community planner; management consultant

Political: Colorado House, 1977-79; Colorado Senate 1979-86. Received 70% of the vote in the

1986 general election to succeed Rep Ken Kramer (R), who ran unsuccessfully for the Senate. Reelected in 2000 with 83% of the vote and in 2002 with 69%.

Rep Hefley, a solid conservative, has close ties with his district's business community and high-tech industries. Concerned about the erosion of America's eminence in space. His focus as a legislator is to strengthen and improve the military, protect federal lands and reduce federal taxes. Hefley is a strong advocate for a robust national defense and is a staunch supporter of missile defense. During his six-year tenure as chairman of the HASC Subc on Installations and Facilities, he focused on increasing expenditures on mil housing and personnel programs. Strong supporter of HR 2586, the Ntl Def Auth Act for FY02. Stated, "many years the military had to do more with less. And now, after the tragic events of Sept 11, will be asking our military men and women to do even more." Under the Act, Colorado received \$117M worth of construction funding for projects at Buckley and Schriever AFBs and Fort Carson. Supports privatization of military housing. At 21Jun01 HASC QDR hearing he stated that the AF seems to be moving from a bomber-centric to a fighter-centric force. Said he hates unnecessary duplication in government and questioned if "the US needs so many air forces in our defense structure, or would a single air force work better?"

During the 107th Congress he sponsored HR 107, Nat'l Historic Landmarks from the Cold War, which would require the Sec of Interior to conduct a study to identify sites and resources for commemorating and interpreting the Cold War. Among one of the sites would be Cheyenne Mountain, CO. In 2001, he sponsored HR 351 to amend the IRS Code of 1986 to extend to civilian employees of the DoD serving in combat zones the tax treatment allowed to members of the Armed Forces serving in combat zones. Concerned with noise complaints and in a move to comfort constituents, he asked the AF Academy to run its new flight training program for a test period to see whether it is disturbing residents (Colorado Gazette, 30Aug01). He regards Colorado Springs "as the center of the AF." Introduced a bill (HR 5102) to allow military aircraft to be used to fight wildfires. Supported measures to exempt the military from certain environmental laws, including the accidental killing of migratory birds. Said he is concerned that the "next endangered species will be the American warrior."

Additional: Member AF Caucus.

AF Bases: AF Academy, Peterson AFB, Schriever AFB, Minor Bases (Martin Site 1 and NORAD COC site) and Reserve Forces.

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES – Subc on Readiness – Chmn; Tactical Air & Land Forces; Terrorism;

STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT – Chmn
BOARD OF VISITORS, US AIR FORCE ACADEMY – 1987 – Present